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**Randall E. Nichols**  
District Attorney General

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 08 2008**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S  
OFFICE**

August 8, 2008

Robert E. Cooper, Jr.  
Attorney General and Reporter  
Cordell Hull and John Sevier State Office Bldg.  
P.O. Box 20207  
Nashville TN 37202

Dear General Cooper:

I appreciate your agreeing to investigate the questions that have arisen concerning spending practices of Knox County officials and employees, as documented in recent audit reports. As you know, these questions have adversely impacted public confidence in the operation of Knox County government, and I appreciate your understanding that a prompt review of those practices by an office independent from Knox County government, regardless of its outcome, should begin to restore some of that confidence.

From our conversations, I understand that you intend to devote the resources of your office necessary to bring this matter to a conclusion as soon as reasonably possible. I also understand that Shelby County Assistant District Attorney General William Bright will continue to participate in the investigation. I have great confidence in the team of excellent lawyers and investigators that has now been assembled to conduct this investigation.

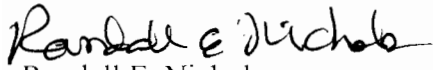
I have instructed my staff to file the documents needed to formalize my delegation of authority to you and your office to handle this matter. As soon as those documents are filed, copies will be sent to you and other interested persons, including the Knox County Mayor, the Knox County Commission, the current County Law Director, the County Law Director-Elect (as of September 1) and the attorneys appointed to advise the Knox County Commission of your appointment. As we also discussed, I will have copies of our letters and the appointment documents available for the news media.

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On behalf of my office and the citizens of this county, I appreciate your office's responsiveness in this critical time for Knox County, and I again thank you for your office's invaluable assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall E. Nichols". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randall" being more prominent.

Randall E. Nichols  
District Attorney General